

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149389

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK CANBERRA
LONDON PARIS TOKYO DTG P R 250810Z JUN 75 FM VIENTIANE

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 4527

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11#52: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, LA, US

SUBJ: PROCEDURES FOR POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OR BREAK IN
RELATIONS WITH LAO GOVERNMENT

REF: VIENTIANE 4450 (NOTAL)

1. THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE PGNU TOWARD THIS EMBASSY
AND ITS POSSIBLE REACTION TO THE TERMINATION OF AMERICAN
ASSISTANCE TO LAOS RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT EVENTS
OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS OR WEEKS COULD OBLIGE THE USG TO
SUSPEND OR BREAK RELATIONS WITH LAO PROVISIONAL GOVERN-
MENT OF NATIONAL UNION ON FAIRLY SHORT NOTICE. AS MEN-
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TIONED VIENTIANE 4450, OUR INTENTION HAS BEEN AND REMAINS
TO MAKE NECESSITY FOR SUCH ACTION APPEAR TO BE RESPONSIBI-
LITY OF LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE
UP TO DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THIS EMBASSY, TO

DECIDE AT WHAT POINT PROVOCATIONS HAD BECOME SO SEVERE,
OR NORMAL OPERATIONS HAD BEEN SO IMPEDED, THAT SUCH
ACTION WERE REQUIRED.

2. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S
CLARIFYING TECHNICAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN WITHDRAWING
EMBASSY, AND SUSPENDING OR BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
AND INDICATING WHICH IT BELIEVES WOULD BE CORRECT IN
LIGHT OF PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND OF IMAGINABLE NEAR-
TERM DEVELOPMENTS. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME PROCEDURAL
GUIDANCE BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN 2 FAM 430.

3. WE ASSUME THAT A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN EVENT OF
BREAK OR SUSPENSION WOULD BE CHOICE OF PROTECTING
POWER. IN TERMS OF FAVORABLE DISPOSITION AND SIZE OF
STAFF IN LOCAL EMBASSIES, THERE ARE ONLY FIVE POSSIBLE
CANDIDATES: AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, JAPAN, THAILAND, AND THE
UNITED KINGDOM. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IS SMALL. WHILE
PRESENT AMBASSADOR IS NOT A VERY STRONG ADVOCATE OF HIS
OWN INTERESTS, HE IS DUE TO LEAVE NEXT MONTH AND WE
DO NOT KNOW HIS REPLACEMENT. THE THAI AMBASSADOR IS
INEPT AND SEEMS CONCERNED MAINLY WITH ACCOMMODATING
THE NEW ORDER HERE, BUT EVEN DESPITE HIS ACCOMMODATION
THAILAND WILL PROBABLY HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN
IN LAOS IN NEAR FUTURE. (THAI CONSULATE STAFF IN PAKSE
HAS ALREADY PULLED OUT, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.) THE
UNITED KINGDOM IS OUR GOOD FRIEND BUT ITS EMBASSY IS
QUITE SMALL.

4. THIS WOULD SEEM TO LEAVE FRANCE AND JAPAN AS MOST
LOGICAL CHOICES. FRENCH INFLUENCE STILL COUNTS BUT IS
ON THE WANE, AND FRENCH THEMSELVES ARE REPORTEDLY
CUTTING BACK THEIR PERSONNEL BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY.
FURTHERMORE, FRENCH AMBASSADOR CARDI IS GUESSWORK OF OLD
TYPE AND HAS NO GREAT SYMPATHY FOR U.S. JAPANESE MIGHT
BE BEST CHOICE FOR THE TASK. THEY HAVE A RELATIVELY
LARGE AND EFFICIENT EMBASSY HERE (ALTHOUGH A SOMEWHAT
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WEAK AMBASSADOR); THERE ARE NO STIGMAS ATTACHED TO THEM;
AND JAPAN WILL CLEARLY REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT POWER IN
THIS PART OF THE WORLD FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE. WOULD ALSO WELCOME COMMENTS
OF INFO ADDRESSEES.

CHAPMAN
UNQUOTE
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